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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,614	04/17/2002	Yi Li	60020-5001-US	8325

23973 7590 01/30/2006

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EXAMINER

AZPURU, CARLOS A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1615

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/980,614

Applicant(s)

LI ET AL.

Examiner

Carlos A. Azpuru

Art Unit

1615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 and 11-14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Receipt is acknowledged of the request for continued prosecution and amendment filed 1/25/2005.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: The two terms in parentheses should be deleted and included in a dependent claim.. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Azizi et al in view of Kohyama et al.

Azizi et al disclose transplantation of human marrow stromal cells and astrocyte precursors (neurospheres) (see Abstract; page 3910, Results). The transplanted cells behaved like endogenous CNS stem cells (see Migration of Implanted Cells, page 3911). Finally, Azizi et al suggest the use of the transplant in the treatment of various disease. Azizi et al teaches the administration of the same cells, by the same route, to

Art Unit: 1615

the same organ, and said cells migrate in the same way as claimed in the instant application. Azizi et al further provide the suggestion to use said implants in the treatment of various CNS diseases. While Azizi et al does indeed use a healthy brain, the mechanism of action of these migrated cells is an inherent property of these cells, not the condition of the brain. They would function in the same way regardless of the condition of the brain. Azizi et al does indeed show, survival, engraftment, and migration of these stromal cells. While Azizi et al also deliver their cells to a healthy CNS, there is no showing that delivery to damaged or diseased tissue would function any differently. Further, there is a clear suggestion to treat CNS diseases by Azizi et al. However, it is agreed that Azizi et al do not teach that the transplanted cells would differentiate into parenchymal cells.

In a related study, Kohyama et al disclose that bone marrow stromal cells differentiated into functional neurons. Therefore, those of ordinary skill would expect similar therapeutic results for treatment of various CNS diseases given that Azizi et al disclose the direct implantation of human marrow stromal cells, and Kohyama et al's teaching that these transp[lanted cells would differentiate into functional neurons. The instant method would have been obvious given the teachings of Azizi et al in view of Kohyama et al.

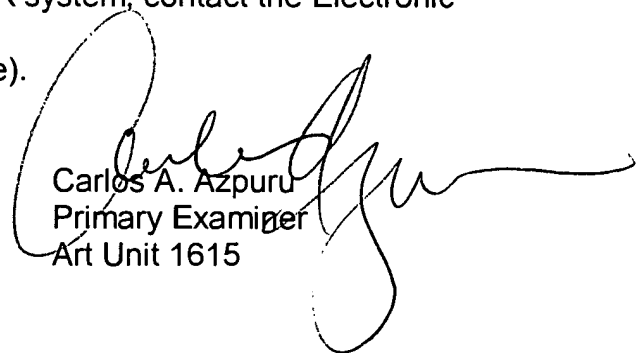
Claims 5-8, 11-14 are objected to as dependent upon a rejected claim.

Art Unit: 1615

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos A. Azpuru whose telephone number is (571) 272-0588. The examiner can normally be reached on Tu-Fri, 6:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K. Page can be reached on (571) 272-0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Carlos A. Azpuru
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1615

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